

The 'Stonewall' of our generation

Subject: The 'Stonewall' of our generation

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 [Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember, 13th District](#)

Friend --

Last Sunday, a gunman armed with a military style assault weapon, stormed Pulse Night Club in Orlando and rapidly started shooting, claiming 49 lives and injuring 53 others. Several of the victims remain in critical condition.

The massacre is the worst mass shooting in US history. The dead include the mother of 11 who beat cancer twice, the brother whose sister drove 12 hours just to say goodbye, the couples who died together, the immigrant from South Africa, the native of Connecticut, and the stories go on and on.

The victims range in age from 18 to 50. A barista, an accountant, a recent high school graduate on her way to college on a basketball scholarship with her whole life ahead of her. Entrepreneurs. Students. Churchgoers. Many were Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual or Transgender, but they were all someone's son, daughter, mother, father, aunt, uncle, or friend.

In 1966 and in 1967 the Black Cat Protests began in Silver Lake, which started the LGBT-rights movement in Los Angeles. Then, two-and-a-half years later we witnessed Stonewall in the summer of 1969 in New York City. Orlando is this generation's Stonewall and there is powerful resolve within this community, and far beyond, to take action to eliminate the possibility of any deranged person to have access to weapons causing mass casualties.

What happened in Orlando has galvanized the LGBT community to be a powerful new ally for those who have been fighting for sensible gun control laws for decades. The various gun lobbies and their advocates have a perverse, disingenuous, and corrupt definition of the Second Amendment. Shamefully, they have allies in the U.S. Senate and House that benefit from their support. Together, they collude to aid and abet in spreading terror across this great country.

We must stand together, as a nation, to bring gun violence under control. We must not be afraid. We are Orlando, every day, and we will fight to ban the weapons of terror on our own soil. It is in the interest of every community, in every state, in these United States.

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Mitch O'Farrell

COMING UP

SUMMER: [FREE LUNCH PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS AT LA CITY PARKS](#)

SAT 6/18: [EAST HOLLYWOOD 1ST ANNUAL SAFE SUMMER KICK-OFF](#)

MON 6/20: [LA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIVERSITY JOB FAIR](#)

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